

GAC PLENARY MEETING PALMA DE MALLORCA – SPAIN

Agenda Item 10.2 – Flight Recorder report

Flight Recorder approvals:

During the year I have attempted to test and evaluate two flight Recorders.

The first type was the iLog Type II Flight Recorder report manufactured by iQuest in Hungary. After the initial problems to make it work properly in the southern hemisphere, all testing went well. The unit was approved and a full test report sent to Mr. Art Greenfield. Certain recommendations were also made to the manufacturer. Working with the manufacturer was a pleasant experience and all issues were clarified promptly.

The second one was the Icaro Systems Flight Recorder from Spain. After months of delays and promises I finally got a reply from Icaro Systems. They have given me various website links to download the program and drivers from. These links does not work and the XP download failed. I then did a bit of research on my own and found that this unit is actually a commercial unit from Globalsat in Taiwan. More specifically model DG-100. It was possible to download the software, driver and manual form their website. So at least I could work with the unit. I have managed to make it log and download tracks. The Globalsat software can export into different formats, but not GAC format. At this stage I cannot see that this unit can be approved, unless I get the proper information and support from Icaro Systems.

Websites:

I would also like to address the issue of information available on the websites of approved Flight Recorders.

The iLog Type II Flight Recorder website is <http://navigraph.mediacenter5.hu/>
There is very limited information on this website. No manual and no downloads.

The Aflos Flight Recorder website is <http://www.AFLOS.com/>
The website is fully functional and all the information like manuals and software is available

The Icaro Systems website is www.icarosystems.com/ There is picture of the unit on the main page, but no user manual. There are software downloads, but the XP download gives errors when trying to download. There is also no contact details on the website.

The C&N GIS/GPS Technology website is <http://www.c-n.at/> There is a picture and some vague specifications on the Tiny Brother GPS, but no information on the Geotracker, which I find strange. There is also no software downloads and also no manuals. Another problem its that the website is only in German, while we all know the official competition language is English.

The Air Observer website is www.tilt-tech.co.za/AOGLS.htm The website is fully functional and all the information like manuals and software is available.

I would therefore recommend that the CAG gives notice to all supplier of approved FR's to get all the necessary information on their websites. I would also recommend that this should be rectified within a reasonable time frame – say three months, and that they should notify me in order to verify the contents of their websites.

Flight Recorder manipulation:

This is a rather serious topic as in July this year, Mr. Antonis Papadopoulos reported to Mr. Max Bishop that he was offered a “cracked Austrian Logger” that was able to display Ground Speed and Track. It was then also mentioned that the unit was a Geotracker.

A lot of messages went backwards and forward but no action was taken. It is therefore my recommendation that the Geotracker Flight Recorder is banned from ALL competitions with immediate effect.

It is also my recommendation that the Aflos flight recorder should only be used if it is possible to seal the display after the pilot has verified that it is on and working before flight. One possible method is also to put the complete unit in a sealed envelope after it is switched on. Please note that I am not implicating that the Aflos FR is also cracked, but see this measure as necessary because the unit also has a display.

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